



BOROUGH OF BANBURY

ANNUAL REPORT

of the

Medical Officer of Health

and

Chief Sanitary Inspector

For the Year 1949

H. E. Boddy & Co. Ltd., Factory Street, Banbury
1950



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BOROUGH OF BANBURY

Mayor—

ALDERMAN MRS. MARY CHENEY.

Deputy Mayor—

ALDERMAN GEORGE DONALD McLEOD BRAGGINS.

Public Health Committee.

*Chairman—*COUNCILLOR J. TOOLE.

*Vice-Chairman—*COUNCILLOR DR. HEWLINGS.

ALDERMAN BRAGGINS	COUNCILLOR HUNT
COUNCILLOR MISS BUSTIN	COUNCILLOR MRS. JOHNSON
COUNCILLOR MRS. B. CHENEY	COUNCILLOR PRICE
COUNCILLOR GOULD	COUNCILLOR WALKLETT
COUNCILLOR HASKINS	COUNCILLOR YOUNG

*Town Clerk and Clerk of Peace—*E. OWEN REID, *Solicitor.*

STAFF OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT.

Medical Officer of Health:

A. J. CAMPBELL, B.Sc. (Oxon), M.D. (St. And.), D.P.H.,
Barrister-at-Law, Middle Temple.

Chief Sanitary Inspector and Certified Meat Inspector:

F. APPLEYARD, D.P.A. (Lond.), F.R. San. I., A.M.I.S.E.,
M.I.H. (Hons.)

Additional Sanitary Inspectors and Certified Meat Inspectors:

S. D. COX, M.R.S.I., M.S.I.A.

G. RICHARDS, A.R.S.I., M.S.I.A. (Resigned Jan. 31st,
1949).

T. H. CUTLER, M.R.S.I., M.S.I.A. (Appointed March 1st,
1949).

Clerks:

R. THOMAS (Chief Clerk).

Miss M. E. OXLEY (Shorthand Typist)—Resigned March,
1949.

Miss R. HARRIS (Shorthand Typist)—Appointed March,
1949.

Rodent Officer and Disinfecting Officer:

J. O. HUMPHRIS.



**To the Worshipful the Mayor, Aldermen and Councillors of the
Borough of Banbury**

MR. MAYOR, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,—

I beg to submit the Annual Report on the Health Services of the Borough during 1949. The report is prepared in accordance with Circular 2/50 of the Ministry of Health issued on 26th January, 1950.

The birth rate in 1949 was 18.01, which is somewhat lower than in 1948. The Death Rate was 9.98, also slightly lower than 1948. The Infant Mortality was 14.66 per 1,000 births. This is the lowest figure which has been recorded in Banbury during the last 30 years. The Tuberculosis Death Rate .38 per 1,000 is practically the same as last year, but below the average for England and Wales.

With regard to Infectious Disease, the number of notifications received by the Health Department was 240 as compared with 418 in 1948. This reduction is largely due to a smaller number of cases of Measles notified—also the number of cases of Scarlet Fever was less than half that of 1948. One case of Diphtheria occurred in an adult. There were two cases of Poliomyelitis, both of whom recovered without paralysis.

Housing still continues to be the most acute public health problem in the Borough, and the need for re-housing overcrowded families and tenants of unfit houses is most urgent. As is pointed out elsewhere in the report, an accurate survey of the housing situation in the Borough in this respect is most necessary.

In conclusion, I should like to thank the staff of the Health Department, and in particular the Chief Sanitary Inspector for valuable co-operation during the year.

I am,

Your obedient servant,

A. J. CAMPBELL,

Medical Officer of Health.

SECTION A

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

Area	5,051 acres
Population (1931 Census)	13,953
Population (1949 Estimated Reg. Gen.) ...	18,930
Rateable Value	£115,876
Product of Penny Rate	£455

Extracts from Vital Statistics for the Year 1949. Live Births.

					Males.	Females.	Total.
Legitimate	...	...	...	...	183	149	332
Illegitimate	...	...	...	...	3	6	9
					<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Totals	...	...	...	...	186	155	341
					<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>

BIRTH RATE per 1,000 of Estimated Population	...	...	...	...	...	...	18.01
(England and Wales—16.7)							

Stillbirths.

					Males.	Females.	Total.
Legitimate	...	...	...	...	3	2	5
Illegitimate	...	...	...	...	1	—	1
RATE per 1,000 (Live and Stillbirths)	...	...	...	...	...	...	17.54

Deaths.

					Males.	Females.	Total.
Deaths	...	...	...	...	89	100	189
DEATH RATE per 1,000 of Estimated Population	...	...	...	...	...	...	9.98
(England and Wales—11.7)							

Death Rate of Infants under One Year of Age.

						Number.	Rate.
All Infants per 1,000 Live Births	...	...	...	...	...	5	14.66
Legitimate Infants per 1,000 Legitimate Live Births	...	...	...	...	...	5	15.06
Illegitimate Infants per 1,000 Illegitimate Live Births	...	...	...	...	...	—	—
(England and Wales—32).							

Causes of Death of Infants under One Year of Age.

Causes : Legitimate :

Congenital Heart Disease	...	2
Asphyxia	... ..	2
Septicaemia	... ..	1

Illegitimate :—Nil

Causes of Deaths, 1949.

	Males.	Females.	Total.
6. Tuberculosis of respiratory system	2	2	4
7. Other forms of tuberculosis ...	—	3	3
8. Syphilitic disease	—	1	1
9. Influenza	—	1	1
13. Cancer of buc. cav. and aesoph. (M) uterus (F)	1	—	1
14. Cancer of stomach and duodenum	3	1	4
15. Cancer of breast	—	4	4
16. Cancer of all other sites	10	2	12
17. Diabetes	1	1	2
18. Intra-cranial vascular lesions ...	8	20	28
19. Heart disease	31	29	60
20. Other diseases of circulatory system	7	11	18
21. Bronchitis	—	1	1
22. Pneumonia	6	9	15
23. Other respiratory diseases	2	—	2
24. Ulcer of stomach or duodenum ...	—	1	1
27. Other digestive diseases	1	3	4
28. Nephritis	4	2	6
29. Puerperal and post-abortion sepsis	—	1	1
32. Congenital malformation, birth in- juries, infant diseases	4	—	4
33. Suicide	3	—	3
34. Road Traffic accidents	1	—	1
35. Other violent causes	2	1	3
36. All other causes	3	7	10
	<hr/> 89	<hr/> 100	<hr/> 189

Deaths from—Cancer (all ages)	21
Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age)	Nil.
Whooping Cough (all ages) ...	Nil.
Measles (all ages)	Nil.

SECTION B

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA.

1. Staff of the Public Health Department.

A list of members of the Staff of the Public Health Department is given at the beginning of this report.

(a) Laboratory Facilities.

Laboratory work for the Borough is carried out at the Public Health Laboratory, Walton Street, Oxford, in the grounds of the Radcliffe Infirmary.

The following are details of the work carried out in 1949 :

FAECES	.....	Number examined	...	...	...	38
		Negative	...	...	...	33
		Positive: B. Typhi-murium	...	...	...	4
		Gardia Lamblia	...	...	...	1
BLOOD	.....	Number examined	...	...	...	32
		Negative	...	...	...	32
SWABS	.....	Number examined	...	...	...	89
		Positive for Haemolytic	...	...	...
		Streptococci	...	...	...	37
		Positive for Vincent's Angina	...	...	...	1
		Negative	...	...	...	52
OTHER						
EXAMINATIONS		Total	...	...	...	17

(b) Nursing in the Home.

Facilities are provided by the County Council under Sec. 257 National Health Service Act, 1946, through the agency of the Oxfordshire Nursing Federation.

(c) Clinics and Treatment Centres.

CLINIC	PLACE	TIME
1. Maternity & Child School Clinic		Tuesday and Friday
Welfare Clinic, Warwick Road		2.30 p.m.
2. Ante Natal Clinic	„	Wednesday 2.30 p.m.
3. School Clinic	„	Each weekday 9 a.m.
		also Tuesday 2 p.m.
4. Child Guidance	„	Thursday 10.30 a.m.

- | | | |
|--|--------------------------------|--|
| 5. Speech Clinic | „ | Wednesday 10 a.m. |
| 6. Eye Clinic | Horton Hospital | Monday 10 a.m. |
| 7. Orthopædic Clinic | „ | Thursdays (1st & 3rd)
2.30 p.m. |
| 8. Tuberculosis Clinic | „ | Thursday 1 p.m. |
| 9. V.D. Clinic | Radcliffe Infirmary,
Oxford | Males—Wed. 6 p.m.
Sat. 3 p.m.
Females—Mon. 6 p.m.
Wed. 3 p.m. |
| 10. Diphtheria Immunisation School
Clinic | | 1st Tues. each month
3 p.m. |

Pueperal Pyrexia—1 case occurred during the year.

Maternal Deaths—There was 1 maternal death during the year.

Illegitimate Children.

There were 9 illegitimate births during the year. Of these none died before reaching the age of one year. This represents an Infant Mortality Rate of 0.0 per 1,000 as against 15.06 for legitimate children.

SECTION C

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

1. Water Supply.

Water for the Borough was, up to the end of 1946, supplied by the Banbury Water Company but, during that year, a Bill was passed by Parliament under which the Town Council acquired the undertaking as from the 1st January, 1947. (Banbury Corporation Act, 1946).

The water supply is from the River Cherwell at Grimsbury and the Sor Brook at Adderbury; it is treated by sand and mechanical filters and is also chlorinated. During 1949 the supply was constant and sufficient.

During the year, 62 samples of water were taken for chemical and bacteriological examination. All were reported to be satisfactory and suitable for a public supply.

With the exception of a few houses on the outskirts of the town (about 30 separate premises), all are on the public supply. During the last four years, town's water has been laid on at 18 premises hitherto supplied from wells or springs and the supplies

have been improved at 5 premises by the provision of a filtration plant in one case; the cleaning out of wells in three cases; and the provision of an alternative satisfactory well supply at the other house. Seven cases of unsatisfactory well water supplies were under consideration at the close of the year and steps were being taken to improve these supplies.

During the year all the waterworks employees—30 in number—had blood examinations for Vi antibodies with a view to detecting possible Typhoid carriers. All the specimens gave satisfactory results.

During 1949, 17 specimens of water were examined from wells and other private supplies in the Borough, with results as follows :

Class 1	...	...	4	Greater than 10	„
Class 2	...	...	1	„ 3—10	„
Class 3	...	...	4	„ 1—2	„
Class 4	...	...	8	less than 1 B. Coli per 100 c.c.	

These classifications are those of the Ministry of Health.

2. Drainage and Sewerage.

No important works were carried out during the year except the extension of sewers in connection with the Corporation's housing programme. Drainage repairs and improvements carried out under the supervision of the Department during 1949 included :

Drains cleared of obstruction	...	...	...	34
Drains repaired or relaid	...	...	...	35
Soilpipes repaired	...	...	...	10
Inspection chambers provided	...	...	...	5

3. Rivers and Streams.

The Thames Conservancy Board exercise general supervision over the rivers and streams in the Borough. The water-courses conveying storm water received attention from the Sanitary Inspector during the year and a large amount of cleansing of watercourses was carried out.

4. Closet Accommodation.

Practically all the dwelling-houses in the Borough are provided with water closets except a few on the extreme outskirts of the town where the water carriage system is not available. Improvements to closet accommodation carried out as a result of

the work of the Sanitary Inspector were :

New water closets provided	...	...	...	16
W.C. compartments repaired	...	...	...	111
W.C. compartments cleansed	...	...	...	28
W.C. pedestals provided	...	...	...	43
W.C. cisterns provided	...	...	...	35

5. Public Cleansing.

This work is carried out under the supervision of the Borough Surveyor and has been well maintained during the year.

6. Sanitary Inspection of the Area.

Particulars of the work of the Sanitary Inspectors are given in the report of the Chief Sanitary Inspector at the end of this report.

SECTION D

HOUSING.

1. Unfit Houses.

As mentioned in previous reports, the housing conditions in the Borough still leave much to be desired and, as soon as conditions permit, it will be necessary to deal with several areas as Clearance Areas and with many individual unfit houses by demolition order procedure.

During 1949 a considerable amount of housing repair work was carried out, and 658 houses were dealt with under the provisions of the Public Health Act, 1936, and the Housing Act, 1936. Five unfit houses were demolished as a result of informal action during the year and four further unfit houses were closed following similar action.

Although there is no doubt that the general housing conditions in the Borough are far from satisfactory it is true to say that the full extent of the problem has not yet been fully ascertained and I am of the opinion that a full survey of housing conditions is desirable. It would appear that such a survey, on a national basis, is envisaged by the Ministry of Health, and it is to be hoped that conditions will soon permit of this being carried out.

2. Overcrowding.

Although no precise details are available it is certain that a considerable amount of overcrowding still exists in the Borough although the post-war housing work of the Corporation has relieved some of the worst cases. In this connection, too, a national housing survey would enable local authorities to obtain precise data with regard to the problem of overcrowding in their respective areas.

The re-housing of overcrowded families will also form a substantial part of the Corporation's future housing programme and this fact should be borne in mind when the long-term housing policy is under consideration.

SECTION E

INSPECTION OF MEAT AND OTHER FOODS.

(a) Milk Supply.

The supervision of the town's milk supply has been given much attention by the Sanitary Inspectors during the year. 76 visits of inspection were made to cowsheds and dairies and five premises were improved during the year—5 defects and contraventions being remedied on request. There were, up to the end of September, on the register :

Cowkeepers	...	...	...	...	12
Cowkeeper Retailers	...	...	...	...	1
Retailers Only	...	...	...	...	7

In addition, the following licences were granted during the year under the Milk (Special Designations) Order:

Pasteurisers' Licenses	...	...	...	4
Dealers' Licences (T.T. Milk)	...	...	...	3
Dealers' Licence (Accredited Milk)	...	...	...	1
Dealers' Licence (Pasteurised Milk)	...	...	...	1
Bottling Licences (T.T. Milk)	...	...	...	3

Routine milk sampling was continued during 1949, and the following table shows the number and results of the samples taken. All samples were examined by the methylene blue and coliform tests except the pasteurised and heat treated milks, which were subjected to the phosphatase test and the methylene blue test :

Type of Milk	Satisfactory	Not Satisfactory	Total
Tuberculin Tested	17	6	23
Pasteurised	62	0	62
Accredited	2	6	8

Raw Milk	...	...	15	21	36
Heat Treated	...	...	4	2	6
			<u>100</u>	<u>35</u>	<u>135</u>

(b) Meat Inspection.

During 1949, as in the two previous years, every animal slaughtered for human food in the Borough was inspected prior to sale.

During the year the carcasses, parts of carcasses and offal detailed in the table below were condemned and surrendered :

	Cattle		Sheep		Pigs		Calves	
Total number of Animals Slaughtered and Inspected	2030		5995		651		1258	
	No	Weight	No	Weight	No	Weight	No	Weight
Carcasses Condemned :								
Tuberculosis ..	28	12868	—	—	4	769	2	107
Other Diseases ..	19	7315	53	2335	9	1429	8	373
Totals (A) ..	47	20183	53	2335	13	2198	10	480
Parts of Carcasses, Organs and Offals								
Offal	47	9343	53	486	13	127	10	93
Livers	590	8255	127	274	5	13	5	14
Meat	—	6331	—	342	—	271	—	34
Lungs	222	2190	300	614	44	152	22	49
Heads	143	3674	17	120	6	105	3	28
Tongues	143	999	1	6	1	4	—	—
Head & Pluck ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Sweetbreads ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Spleen	4	7	—	—	2	3	—	—
Intestines	819	2218	4	21	20	115	2	18
Kidneys	9	52	—	—	—	—	—	—
Mesentery Fat ..	37	444	—	—	2	5	—	—
Totals (B) ..	2014	33513	502	1863	93	795	42	236
Total weights (A) & (B) in pounds ..	—	53696	—	4198	—	2993	—	716

The following table, in the form required by the Ministry of Health, gives further details of the evidence of Tuberculosis and other diseases in animals slaughtered and inspected in the Borough during the year 1949 :—

Carcases Inspected and Condemned.

	Cattle	Cows	Calves	Sheep	Pigs
Number Killed	1564	466	1258	5995	651
Number Inspected ..	1564	466	1258	5995	651
All diseases except Tuberculosis					
Whole Carcases Condemned	2	8	7	51	9
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	558	123	13	449	74
Percentage of number inspected affected with disease other than Tuberculosis ..	35.8%	28.1%	1.6%	8.3%	12.7%
Tuberculosis					
Whole carcasses condemned	13	21	2	—	4
Carcases in which some part or organ was condemned	170	101	—	—	12
Percentage of number inspected affected with tuberculosis	11.7%	26.2%	0.16%	—	2.6%

(c) Other Foods.

TINNED FOODS.

Tinned Meat	...	...	...	95	Tins
Tinned Fish	...	...	...	101	Tins
Tinned Milk	...	...	...	183	Tins
Tinned Vegetables	...	...	...	123	Tins
Tinned Spaghetti	...	...	...	26	Tins
Tinned Fruit	...	...	...	253	Tins
Tinned Soup	...	...	...	45	Tins
Tinned Syrup	...	...	...	3	Tins
Tinned Jam	...	...	...	42	Tins
Tinned Pickles	...	...	...	7	Tins

WET FISH.

Cod	304 lbs.
Shrimps	80 lbs.
Mackerel	254 lbs.

SUNDRIES.

Sausage Meat	76 lbs.
Bacon	4 lbs.
Poultry	24 Carcases
Sweetphat	29 Packets
Flour (Self Raising)	1 Packet
Black Puddings	480 lbs.
Pearl Barley	3 lbs.
Cheese	47 lbs.
Salad Cream	87 Jars
Tea	4 lbs.
Prunes	15 lbs.
Butter	2 lbs.
Sugar	1 cwt.

Food Poisoning.

Two isolated cases occurred during the year, with no apparent connection. Both were due to *Bacillus Typhi-murium*. In one case the infection was almost certainly from a source outside the Borough—in the other there was a possibility that duck eggs may have been the source, although this was not definitely established.

- (a) No. of Outbreaks—2
- (b) No. of Cases—2.
- (c) No. of deaths—Nil.

SECTION F**PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES.**

Notifiable Diseases (other than Tuberculosis) notified during the year 1949.

(Civilians only).

Disease	Total cases notified	Admitted Isolation Hospital	Total Deaths
Scarlet Fever	24	15	—
Measles	139	—	—
Whooping Cough	65	—	—
Erysipelas	3	2	—
Dysentery	1	—	—
Puerperal Pyrexia	1	—	—
Pneumonia	2	—	—
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	2	—	—
Polio-myelitis	2	2	—
Diphtheria	1	1	—
Totals	240	20	—

AGE INCIDENCE OF NOTIFIED CASES

Age over	0	1	2	3	4	5	10	15	20	35	45	65
and over	1	2	3	4	5	10	15	20	35	45	65	—
Disease												
Scarlet Fever ..	—	—	4	—	—	15	1	—	3	1	—	—
Measles ..	3	15	16	26	17	54	6	1	—	1	—	—
Whooping Cough ..	5	11	11	8	7	22	1	—	—	—	—	—
Erysipelas ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	1
Dysentery ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—
Puerperal Pyrexia ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
Pneumonia ..	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1	—	—	—
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Poliomyelitis ..	—	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Diphtheria ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
Totals ..	10	27	31	34	25	92	8	1	6	5	—	1

Scarlet Fever.

24 cases occurred during 1949. 15 were admitted to hospital and 9 isolated at home. 16 occurred in school children, 4 in children under school age and 4 in adults.

Puerperal Pyrexia.

One case of Puerperal Pyrexia occurred at the Maternity Hospital. A Haemolytic Streptococcus was isolated; the patient was removed to Oxford for treatment. No definite source of infection was found.

Measles.

139 cases occurred, mainly during the months of June, July and August. There were few complications and no deaths.

Poliomyelitis.

Two cases occurred; both in children under 5. Both were removed to Oxford City Isolation Hospital. In neither was there any permanent paralysis.

Diphtheria Immunisation.

This is carried out at the School Clinic, Warwick Road, by the Oxfordshire County Council, under National Health Service Act 1946.

TUBERCULOSIS

Age Groups	New Cases				Deaths			
	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
1 to 5	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	1
5 to 15	1	4	—	—	—	—	—	—
15 to 25	1	5	1	—	—	2	—	2
25 to 35	4	3	—	1	—	—	—	—
35 to 45	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
45 to 55	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
55 to 65	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
65 & over	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Totals	10	13	1	2	2	2	—	3

Death Rate per 1,000 from Tuberculosis :—

					Pulmonary	Non-Pulmonary
Banbury .. ..	..	..	..	..	0.21	0.18
England and Wales	..	..	..	..	0.403	0.054

BOROUGH OF BANBURY
FACTORIES ACTS, 1937 and 1948

Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health in respect of the year 1949

Part I of the Act

1. Inspections for purposes of provisions as to health (including inspections made by Sanitary Inspectors).

Premises	No. on Register	Number of		
		Inspections	Written Notices	Occupiers Prosecuted
(1) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities ..	24	28	8	—
(2) Factories not included in (1) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority ..	125	103	5	—
(3) Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers premises)	10	3	3	—
Total	159	134	16	—

2. Cases in which defects were found

Particulars	No. of cases in which defects were found				No. of Prosecutions
	Found	Remedied	Referred to H.M. Inspector	by H.M. Inspector	
Want of cleanliness ..	3	3	—	2	—
San. Conveniences (Sec. 7) Insufficient	6	6	—	3	—
San. Conveniences (Sec. 7) unsuitable or defective	7	7	—	1	—
Other offences ..	6	6	—	—	—
Total	22	22	—	6	—

3. Outworkers

No. of outworkers in August list required by Sec. 110 (1) (c) ..	18
(All outworkers engaged in making of wearing apparel)	
No. of cases of default in supplying lists	Nil
No. of instances of work in unwholesome premises ..	Nil

**To the Mayor, Aldermen and Councillors,
of the Borough of Banbury.**

MR. MAYOR, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

**CHIEF SANITARY INSPECTOR'S ANNUAL
REPORT, 1949.**

I have pleasure in submitting herewith my fourth annual report, which records the work of your Sanitary Inspectors for the year 1949, and, in doing so, I am able to record good progress in all phases of the Department's work.

During the year under review, special attention has been given to work under the Housing Act, the supervision of the town's food and milk supplies and to the administration of the Shops Acts, the Factories Act and the Infestation Order.

Records of the various inspections made, notices served and complied with, and the improvements effected thereby are set out in the tables in the report and various comments on the activities of the Department follow.

It is again pleasing for me to be able to record further progress in the work of improving the conditions under which food is sold, prepared for sale and stored in the Borough and, in general, it can be said that a more satisfactory standard of food hygiene is now being obtained in the area.

The year 1949 saw the loss of the Corporation's powers with respect to some aspects of milk production and control and, whilst this loss of powers is to be deplored, it is of interest to record the great strides which have been made during the last few years towards ensuring for the people of this town, a safe and clean milk supply.

The maintenance and improvement of housing conditions still remains one of the most important duties of the Department and, as mentioned in previous reports, I am still far from satisfied with the general housing conditions of the Borough.

Some staff changes occurred during the year. Mr. G. Richards (Additional Sanitary Inspector) and Miss M. E. Oxley (Shorthand Typist) resigned their appointments on taking up positions elsewhere and they were succeeded by Mr. T. H. Cutler and Miss R. Harris respectively.

In submitting this report, I must express my thanks to the Chairman and Members of the Public Health Committee for their support during the year and to the Medical Officer of Health, the Town Clerk and the other Chief Officers of the Corporation for their ready help at all times.

Finally, my thanks are especially due to the two Additional

Sanitary Inspectors, the Chief Clerk and the Shorthand Typist for their work throughout the year. The work recorded by this report is largely due to the team spirit and loyalty which obtains in the Department.

F. APPLEYARD, F.R.S.I., D.P.A. (Lond.)
Chief Sanitary Inspector.

VISITS AND INSPECTIONS MADE, 1949.

Public Health Act.

Houses inspected	643
Verminous premises	38
Infectious Disease enquiries	82
Drainage inspections	95
Re-visits and work in progress	3567
Van dwellings	166
Smoke abatement	77
Streams and watercourses	19
Vacant land and refuse dumps	35
Canal Boats	47
Water sampling	22
Refuse accommodation	17

Housing Act.

Houses inspected and recorded	537
Re-visits and work in progress	1412
Housing applications	26

Factories Act.

Factories inspected	63
Workplaces inspected	22
Outworkers premises inspected	14

Shops Act.

Shops inspected	143
------------------------	-----

Food and Drugs Act.

Bakehouses	70
General food shops	208
Fried fish shops	34
Food preparing premises	67
Slaughterhouse	491
Knackers Yard	6
Public houses	73
Public Market	92
Food inspection visits	156
Restaurants and cafés	66

Ice-cream premises	...	...	...	138
Food vehicles	...	...	...	5
Cowsheds	...	...	...	22
Dairies	...	...	...	54
Milk sampling visits	...	...	...	128
Ice-cream sampling visits	...	...	...	41

Miscellaneous.

Rats and mice	...	...	...	30
Schools	...	...	...	1
Cinemas and public halls	...	...	...	8
Diseases of Animals Acts	...	...	...	110
Interviews with owners and builders	...	...	...	849
Keeping of animals	...	...	...	334
Miscellaneous visits	...	...	...	388
Total visits and inspections made				<u>10396</u>

NOTICES SERVED AND COMPLIED WITH, 1949.

Type of Notice	Out Standing 31-12-48	Served 1949	Complied with 1949	Out Standing 31-12-49
Public Health Act-Prelim ..	95	513	521	87
Public Health Act-Statutory	64	261	212	113
Housing Act-Prelim ..	74	14	83	5
Housing Act-Statutory ..	73	129	88	114
Factories Act-Informal ..	3	7	6	4
Shops Acts-Informal ..	28	6	27	7
Food and Drugs Act-Informal	10	65	47	28
Milk and Dairies Order- Informal	—	5	5	—
Canal Boats Regulations- Informal	2	2	—	4
Totals	349	1002	989	362

**SUMMARY OF INSPECTIONS MADE, NOTICES SERVED, NOTICES
COMPLIED WITH, DEFECTS REMEDIED AND PREMISES IMPROVED,
1949.**

	Public Health and Housing Acts	Food and Drugs Act	Factories Act	Shops Acts	Misc. Acts & Reg's	Totals
Inspections made ..	7126	1651	99	143	1377	10396
Notices served ..	917	65	7	6	7	1002
Notices complied with ..	904	47	6	27	5	989
Defects Remedied	2755	184	22	59	5	3025
Premises improved	658	45	9	27	5	744

NUISANCES ABATED AND DEFECTS REMEDIED, 1949.

(a) Dwelling Houses.

Roofs repaired or renewed	...	...	191
External walls re-pointed	...	...	96
Rainwater pipes repaired or renewed	...	...	86
Eaves gutters repaired or renewed	...	...	113
Dampness abated generally	...	...	41
Wall plaster repaired	...	...	243
Ceiling plaster repaired	...	...	130
Floors repaired or renewed	...	...	132
Windows repaired or renewed	...	...	266
Fireplaces and cooking ranges repaired or renewed	...	...	95
Coppers provided or repaired	...	...	49
Sinks provided to houses hitherto without	...	...	5
Sinks repaired or renewed	...	...	15
Sink waste pipes repaired or renewed	...	...	32
Interior water supplies provided	...	...	9
Repairs to water supplies	...	...	22
Food stores provided or repaired	...	...	1
New sashcords to windows provided	...	...	231
Stairs repaired or renewed	...	...	28
Doors and woodwork repaired or renewed	...	...	124
Chimneys and stacks repaired	...	...	57

Yards and passages paved or repaired ...	35
Rooms cleansed and re-decorated ...	326
Overcrowding abated	4
Handrails provided in staircases ...	27
Additional lighting and ventilation provided	10
Houses closed or demolished	9
Drains cleared of obstructions	34
Drains repaired or renewed	30
Drains connected to sewer	1
Inspection chambers provided to drains...	5
Soil pipes, vent. shafts, etc. repaired ...	10
New water closets provided	1
W.C. compartment repaired and cleansed	82
W.C. pedestals provided	43
W.C. cisterns provided to W.C.'s hitherto without	3
New dustbins provided	79
Offensive accumulations removed ...	9
Verminous rooms disinfested	33
Nuisance from animals abated	55
W.C. cisterns repaired or renewed ...	32

(b) Shops Acts.

Additional water closets provided ...	2
Water closets cleansed and repaired ...	2
Sinks provided (with water supply) ...	1
Proper heating facilities provided ...	1
Premises cleansed and re-decorated ...	1
Seats for female assistants provided ...	1
Notices re Early Closing Day exhibited	15
Notices re Assistants' Half Holiday exhibited	15
Notices re Seats for females exhibited	10
Abstract of Act exhibited	9
Young persons records properly kept ...	2

(c) Factories.

Additional water closets provided ...	6
Water closets cleansed, repaired, etc. ...	7
Structural repairs completed	3
Cleansed and re-decorated	3
Accumulations of refuse removed ...	1
Smoke and fume nuisances abated ...	2

(d) Bakehouses.

Water closets repaired and cleansed ...	2
Rooms cleansed and re-decorated ...	14
Structural repairs completed	3

Accumulations of refuse removed	...	1
Water tank cleansed	... ..	1

(e) Dairies and Cowsheds.

Dairies cleansed and re-decorated	...	2
Cowsheds cleansed and limewashed	...	2
Accumulations of manure removed	...	1

(f) Food Shops and Food Preparing Premises.

Constant hot water supplies provided	...	6
Rooms cleansed and re-decorated	...	16
Washing basins provided	... ..	3
Water closet provided	... ..	1
Clothes drying facilities provided	...	1
Towels provided	... ..	1
Cold water supply laid on to sinks	...	3
W.C's cleansed and repaired	... ..	3
Structural repairs completed	... ..	12
Dustbins provided	... ..	14
Cooking range renewed	... ..	1
Accumulations of refuse removed	...	1
Apparatus and utensils cleansed	...	2
Drainage repairs	... ..	1

(g) Cafes and Public Houses.

Additional water closets provided	...	2
Constant supply of hot water provided	...	12
Rooms and cellars cleansed and re-decorated	... ..	23
W.C's cleansed and repaired	... ..	13
Urinals provided or repaired	... ..	7
Structural repairs completed	... ..	11
Sinks provided	... ..	11
Drainage repairs	... ..	4
Dustbins provided	... ..	2
Cold water supply laid on to sink	...	8

(h) Cinemas and Public Halls.

Additional water closets provided	...	4
Urinal provided	... ..	1

COMPLAINTS.

During the year, 227 complaints were received at the office with reference to the following matters :—

Defective water closets	12
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Defective house roofs	34
Offensive smells	14
Choked drains	31
Burst water pipes	7
Defective dustbins	...	...	...	6
Dumping of refuse	...	...	...	1
Flooding of cellars, etc.	...	...	...	6
Defective gutters and rainwater pipes	...	...	...	8
Defective windows	...	...	...	8
Verminous and dirty houses	...	...	...	3
Defective firegrates	...	...	...	7
Absence of internal water supply	...	...	...	1
Absence of sinks	2
Smoke and chimney nuisances	7
Keeping of animals	3
General defects	77

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WATER SUPPLIES.

During 1949, interior water supplies from the town's mains were supplied to 9 premises which had hitherto been supplied from external stand pipes or from other sources than the public mains. In addition, at 22 other premises repairs were effected to burst water pipes or defective water fittings following requests from the Department.

The work of sampling the water supplies of all premises not connected to the public mains was continued during the year, 20 samples being taken and these were submitted for bacteriological examination. 14 of the samples showed evidence of pollution and the owners of the 7 premises concerned were requested to lay on town's water where possible or otherwise to improve the quality of the supply. At 2 premises towns water was provided; at 1 house a proper filtration plant was installed and at 3 premises the wells were cleaned out with subsequent satisfactory results after sampling.

DRAINAGE AND WATER CLOSETS.

During the year, 34 choked drains were dealt with by the Department and, in addition, at 31 premises drains were re-constructed or repaired under our supervision—this work including the provision of 5 new inspection chambers. In addition, several

choked sewers were referred to the Borough Engineer's Department, all of which were promptly dealt with.

Complaints were also received during the year from residents in various parts of the town with respect to flooding of basements following surcharge of the sewers in times of heavy rain. This matter is receiving the attention of the Corporation's Consulting Engineers who are preparing schemes with a view to remedying the trouble.

Sixteen additional water closets were provided at various premises in the Borough during 1949; 82 water closet compartments were repaired; 43 new pedestal pans fixed and 32 cisterns repaired or renewed. In addition, proper flushing facilities were provided to 3 water closets which had hitherto been flushed by hand.

During 1949, sinks were provided at 5 houses previously without such conveniences and 15 sinks or washing basins were provided at food premises in the area.

CANAL BOATS.

Thirty canal boats were inspected during the year and 6 of these were found to be carrying tar. The total number of persons for which boats were registered was 99 (Aft cabins 89 Fore cabins 10) and the boats were occupied by 21 adult males, 33 adult females and 8 children—a total of 62 persons. Two boats were found to be infringing the Regulations during the year and notices were served upon the owners concerned. No cases of infectious diseases were met with on any of the boats inspected.

HOUSING.

A large proportion of the time of your Sanitary Inspectors still continues to be devoted to the improvement of housing conditions in the Borough, and the year 1949 saw no diminution of this work.

As in previous post-war years, a considerable amount of work was again carried out to dwelling houses in the area following the service of notices under the provisions of both the Public Health Act, 1936 and the Housing Act, 1936, and the improvement in the position as regards labour and materials, mentioned in my last report, was maintained during 1949.

During the year under review, 643 houses were inspected under the provisions of the Public Health Act and 537 were inspected and recorded under the Housing (Consolidated) Regula-

tions. As a result of these inspections, it was found necessary to serve 527 informal notices and 390 statutory notices and, of these notices, 604 informal and 300 statutory were complied with during the year.

The number of houses repaired during 1949 was 658, of which 10 were repaired by the Corporation in default of the owners under the relevant provisions of the Housing Act, 1936.

Five unfit houses were demolished as a result of informal action during the year and 4 unfit houses were closed following similar action by the Corporation.

The general housing conditions of the Borough still remain a matter of concern and, in spite of the creditable work already achieved by the Corporation in the field of post-war housing, it is still very evident that many people in the town are having to live under overcrowded and unsatisfactory housing conditions.

The full extent of the problem facing the Corporation in this respect is not yet fully established and I am of the opinion that to place too much reliance on the number of applicants on the Council's waiting list for new houses is apt to be misleading. This list, in general, shows the number of persons who wish to be rehoused and does not really establish the number of persons who need rehousing on account of their present unsatisfactory conditions.

For this reason, therefore, I still feel that the carrying out of a national survey of housing conditions is desirable. Such a survey would be of immense value locally, and nationally, in assessing the real housing needs and would enable the local authorities to measure the true extent of the housing problem in their respective areas.

VERMINOUS PREMISES.

33 rooms infested by bugs or fleas were disinfested by the Department during 1949 and 38 inspections of such premises were made by the Sanitary Inspectors. In each case, the premises were dealt with by the use of some form of D.D.T. preparation and I am again pleased to record the excellent results achieved by the use of this product. In addition to the disinfection work carried out by the Department, a quantity of D.D.T. liquid and powder was supplied to residents of the Borough and several cases of minor infestation by flies, cockroaches, ants, etc. were dealt with in this way.

REFUSE ACCOMMODATION.

During the year, 79 new dustbins were provided at various premises in the Borough following the service of notices by the

Department and it was unnecessary for the Corporation to supply any dustbins in default of the owners during 1949.

VAN DWELLINGS.

During the year, 166 inspections were made with respect to van dwellings, 82 of these structures being inspected during the period of the local annual Fair. The persons occupying the fair vehicles comprised 76 adult males, 104 adult females and 70 children. Generally speaking, the caravans were clean and well kept and most of the structures were provided with their own sanitary and refuse accommodation. No serious cases of overcrowding of van dwellings were discovered, and no cases of infectious diseases were met with during these visits. 4 caravans were removed from sites in Southam Road, Grimsbury, and Station Road during the year, following action by the Department and, in addition, two wooden erections in Castle Street West, used for human habitation, were closed on the instructions of the Public Health Committee. At the close of the year, there existed in the Borough 12 caravans and other erections on 2 licensed and 7 unlicensed sites, the latter being under consideration by the Corporation at the close of the year.

FACTORIES AND BAKEHOUSES.

The routine inspection of factories and bakehouses was again given attention throughout the year and 169 visits of inspection were made of such premises. 15 premises were improved on our request and 46 defects or contraventions were remedied—details of this work being recorded on page 21 of this report.

SHOPS ACTS.

The regular routine inspection of shops was maintained during 1949 and 143 inspections were recorded under this heading. All duties under the various Shops Acts are carried out by your Sanitary Inspectors, and as a result of the inspections made during the year, 5 premises were improved and at a further 22 shops, proper notices were exhibited and proper records kept at the request of this Department.

SMOKE ABATEMENT.

The smoke problem again received attention during the period under review and 77 visits of inspection—including several timed

observations of factory chimneys were made. In the case of four premises, contraventions of the Public Health Act were recorded and, in each case, action was taken with a view to abating the nuisance. At one large dairy premises a new boiler was installed following advice given by the Department and, at another small clothing factory, the smoke nuisance was remedied by the cleansing of the flues, improved stoking methods and by the use of a better quality fuel.

The other two cases were under consideration at the close of the year. In the case of one premises, a statutory notice had been served but not expired and, in the other case, a change of ownership held up the negotiations for a time.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES AND DISINFECTION.

During 1949, the Sanitary Inspectors made 82 visits of enquiry into notified infectious disease cases and a report on each case was submitted to the Medical Officer of Health. As a result of the occurrence of infectious diseases, 52 houses were disinfected during the year.

RATS AND MICE DESTRUCTION.

Continued progress was made during 1949 in the work of eradicating rats and mice from premises in the area. The Corporation continued to participate in the N.S.19 scheme of the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries under which a free service is given for work carried out at private dwellings whilst a charge is made for rodent destruction services in respect of business premises.

The following summary gives details of the work done during the year with comparative figures for the three previous years :—

(a) Surface Infestations.

	1949	1948	1947	1946
No. of complaints received ...	133	123	154	115
No. of premises inspected ...	1511	1792	1591	479
No. of revisits made ...	858	1150	1720	1363
No. of premises cleared ...	407	474	508	329
Amount of bait laid :—				
Pre-bait ...	638 lbs.	702 lbs.	627 lbs.	391 lbs
Poison bait ...	220 lbs.	260 lbs.	234 lbs.	207 lbs
No. of treatments by gas ...	2	3	6	2
No. of times traps used ...	37	50	26	21
Actual rat bodies found ...	738	852	868	900

(b) Sewer Infestations.

During the four weekly periods ending 26th May and 28th November the fourth and fifth complete maintenance treatments of the Corporation's sewers were carried out. The results of this work together with the results of previous treatments are as follows :—

		Nov. 1949	May 1949	1948	1947	1946	1944
No. of manholes baited	...	243	265	237	211	240	241
No. of pre-bait takes	...	23	20	81	84	73	94

In addition to the above work, a test bait of a proportion of all the sewers was carried out in January, 1949. This test-baiting showed an absence of infestation in the Grimsbury, Neithrop, and Easington areas but some infestation in the Town area. All the sewers in the Town area were subsequently baited when, out of 48 manholes baited, 9 showed evidence of poison being taken.

The results of the sewer baiting done during the year show a noticeable reduction in the degree of infestation of the town's sewers—a reduction which may be assumed to be due to the constant attention given to rodent control work generally in the Borough during the last few years.

MILK CONTROL.

The year 1949 saw the transfer, to the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries, of the Corporation's powers of the supervision of the production of milk together with the transfer to the County Council of their powers of supervision over milk pasteurisation plants.

The supervision of milk production and milk distribution was well maintained during 1949, and 76 inspections of dairies and cowsheds were recorded whilst 5 premises were improved as a result of action by the Department.

The sampling of milk was again actively continued during the year and the following figures give the results of the samples taken during 1949 and the three previous years:—

	1949	1948	1947	1946
Samples taken ...	135	138	120	81
Samples satisfactory ...	100	110	97	64
Samples not satisfactory	35	28	23	17

The sampling of milk carried out during the past four years has had very valuable results—the chief of which has been to emphasise, to the milk distributors, the advantages of supplying Pasteurised, Tuberculin Tested or Heat Treated milk as against

purveying raw milk. During October, through the courtesy of the milk dealers, statistics were obtained relative to the types of milk sold in the Borough and, at that date, it was most pleasing to find that no raw milk, except Tuberculin Tested, was being retailed. The daily gallonage, at that time, was as follows:—

Pasteurised Milk	...	...	2,309 gallons
Heat Treated Milk	...	...	305 gallons
Tuberculin Tested Milk	...	...	142 gallons
Raw Milk (Ungraded)	...	...	Nil

Since these figures were obtained, it is interesting to note that only one sample (out of 28 taken) has proved unsatisfactory—a record which suggests a considerable improvement in the quality of milk sold in the town.

During 1949, two new pasteurisation plants were licensed by the Corporation and one new bottling licence, in respect of Tuberculin Tested Milk, was granted. Owing to the amalgamation of two businesses, one somewhat unsatisfactory dairy was closed down and the whole concern transferred to the more satisfactory premises of the new owner.

Up to October 1st, the four pasteurisation plants operating in the area were kept under constant supervision and 62 samples of pasteurised milk, taken from these premises, all proved satisfactory.

Although one is bound to deplore the loss of the Corporation's powers regarding some aspects of milk production and control, one can say generally that tremendous strides have been made during the last few years towards ensuring, for the people of this town a safe and clean milk supply.

In accordance with the wishes of the Public Health Committee, the active supervision of dairies and the distribution of milk is being continued and the sampling of milk will still play a large part in our activities in this connection.

MEAT AND FOOD INSPECTION.

During 1949 all animals intended for human food in Banbury and district were slaughtered at the Ministry of Food's Centralised Slaughterhouse in Swan Close Road, Banbury. As in previous years, I am able to record amicable working between your officers and the Ministry's officials there.

An increase in the number of animals slaughtered occurred as compared with 1948—the figures for the two years being 9934 (1949) and 8065 (1948). In every case, the carcase and offal was inspected before it reached the public and 123 carcases and

all organs were entirely condemned whilst 3223 parts of carcasses were rejected as being unfit for human food.

The total weight of meat and offal found to be unfit during 1949 was approximately $27\frac{1}{2}$ tons as compared with $24\frac{1}{2}$ tons for the previous year.

The following table shows the animals killed and the weight of unsound meat for the last few years :—

<i>Year</i>	<i>Animals Killed</i>	<i>Weight of unsound meat</i>
1949	9934	61,603 lbs.
1948	8065	55,097 lbs.
1947	10658	58,214 lbs.
1946	13356	42,417 lbs.
1945	15654	38,282 lbs.

These figures reflect, I think, the increased efficiency of the Corporation's meat inspection service and, possibly, a deterioration in the quality of some of the animals being slaughtered.

In addition to the above unsound meat, a considerable amount of tinned foods and other unsound foods were dealt with during the year—156 visits of inspection being recorded for this purpose.

Full details of the unsound meat and food dealt with are given in the Medical Officer of Health's annual report.

FOOD PREMISES.

Efforts to raise the standard of food hygiene in the Borough again formed an important part of the duties of your Sanitary Inspectors during 1949. The campaign directed to this end, carried on during the three previous years, was energetically continued and I am very satisfied with the progress made in this very important work.

In addition to improving the structural condition of food premises generally, good progress has been made in ensuring constant supplies of hot water; the provision of washing basins and soap and towels in food shops and food premises generally, and it is again pleasing for me to record the excellent co-operation received from the food traders in the town in this work. The bakehouses, general food shops and food preparing premises, and the cafes and restaurants received special attention during the year and ten public houses were also dealt with during the period covered by this report.

The number of premises improved, following action by the Department, during the past four years is given below :—

	1949	1948	1947	1946
Butchers Shops	—	4	11	17
Bakehouses	6	7	15	11
General food shops and food preparing premises ...	19	23	13	7
Cafes, restaurants and public houses	20	11	30	9

Three mobile fried fish vans were introduced into the area during 1949 and, in each case, the vans were supervised and the provision of a proper food preparation room in connection with each van was insisted upon.

An application for a licence to boil hams in an unsatisfactory food room was refused by the Public Health Committee during the year and a case of exposure of unsound food (mouldy sausage rolls) was dealt with by the firm concerned being severely cautioned by the Committee.

ICE CREAM.

A good deal of attention was given throughout the year to the supervision of premises used for the manufacture and sale of ice cream having in mind the requirements of the Food and Drugs Act, 1938, and the Ice Cream (Heat Treatment) Regulations. 138 inspections of ice cream premises were made during the period under review and 40 samples of ice cream were taken and submitted for examination. The results of these samples, together with the results of those taken during the two previous years are set out below :—

	1949	1948	1947
Grade 1	22	10	3
Grade 2	6	2	5
Grade 3	6	11	2
Grade 4	6	2	3
	—	—	—
	40	25	13
	—	—	—

Of the 12 unsatisfactory samples, i.e., those coming within grades 3 and 4, 11 of the samples were taken from one large manufacturer who, it is pleasing to report, by the reconstruction of his premises and the installation of a new plant, was successful in overcoming his difficulties and in producing a satisfactory product before the end of the year. The remaining unsatisfactory sample (Grade 3) was the only unsatisfactory result produced by the manufacturer concerned and, in this case again, amendment to the plant resulted in a satisfactory standard being maintained subsequently.

Apart from these two cases, the product of 14 other manufacturers and retailers was sampled during the year with satisfactory results in each case.

During 1949, 8 persons were added to the Corporation's register of ice cream manufacturers and retailers—three of these registrations being due to the transfer of business to new proprietors.

REPORT OF THE INSPECTOR UNDER THE DISEASES OF ANIMAL ACTS FOR THE YEAR 1949.

(1) Anthrax and Sheep Scab.

No outbreaks of anthrax or sheep scab were reported during the year 1949.

(2) Swine Fever.

No outbreak of swine fever was reported in pigs on premises within the Borough during the year 1949.

(3) Foot and Mouth Disease.

No outbreaks of Foot and Mouth Disease occurred during the year in which the Borough was included.

(4) Movement of Swine.

The number of licences issued during the year, authorising the movement of swine from the Cattle Market to private premises was 1,615, involving the movement of 8,834 animals. No contraventions of the Movement of Swine Regulations took place.

(5) Importation of Animals.

One licence was received during the year authorising the movement of 17 Irish cattle from the landing place to the Cattle Market. These cattle were re-licensed to private premises.

(6) Sheep Dipping.

The number of Sheep dipped in the Borough during the year was 1,017 (First Dipping 590, Second Dipping 427). In addition, 407 Kent Sheep and Lambs were licensed to the Cattle Market for sale, all of which had been previously double-dipped, and the Inspectors of the districts to which these sheep were removed were notified and particulars of the dipping given.

(7) Transit of Animals—Cleansing and Disinfection of Vehicles.

During the year 1949, 3,804 vehicles used for the conveyance of animals were cleansed and disinfected, an average weekly number of 73, for a 52 weeks period. The comparative figures for 1948 being 3,380, with an average of 65 weekly.

F. APPELYARD, D.P.A. (Lond.) F.R.S.I.

*Inspector under the Disease of Animals Acts
and Orders.*

